

Post-Event Summary Report

Name of Event: Fourth Annual Southwest Florida Conference on Aging

Date of Event: April 15, 2005

Location of Event: Holiday Inn Select, Bell Tower Drive, Fort Myers, Florida

Number of persons attending: 141

Sponsoring Organization(s): Osterhout & McKinney, P.A., Elder Law Attorneys
Hope Hospice of Southwest Florida

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Priority Issue #1:

Planning Along the LifeSpan

Florida is the fourth most populous state, with over 17.5 million citizens. More than 3.9 million citizens are age 60 and over. Baby boomers are choosing to live within the Southwest area of Florida, and due to the changing dynamics of the aging network, additional information, resources, and education is needed for seniors, caregivers, and the baby boomers.

Barriers:

1. Older citizens are concerned about protecting their financial assets.
2. Older citizens may not know all available resources within the community.
3. Recent hurricanes had a tremendous impact on the community. Seniors, caregivers, and baby boomers are all concerned about affordable housing and transportation issues.

Proposed Solutions:

1. More funding is needed for nursing home diversion programs. People with fixed incomes slip through the cracks when they need so many services.
2. Develop an Aging and Disability Resource Center as a “one-stop-shop”. Streamline and coordinate the too confusing criteria and often contradictory criteria to access and become part of special needs programs. It would be an advantage to simplify moving through systems set up for seniors.
3. Creative solutions for transportation (i.e. accounts with cab companies) and housing (i.e. shared housing options) issues; engage baby boomers in planning for their own futures.

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